



The red and blue requirements of the state flag.

## Description of the Arizona State Flag

The flag of the state of Arizona shall be as follows: "The lower half of the flag shall be a blue field; the upper half shall be divided into 13 equal segments, or rays, which shall start at the center on the lower line and continue to the edges of the flag, colored alternately light yellow or red, consisting of six yellow and seven red rays; in the center of the flag, superimposed, a copper-colored five-point star so placed that the points shall be one foot from the top of the flag and the lower points one foot from the bottom of the flag. The red and blue shall be of the same shades as the colors of the flag of the United States; the flag to have a four-foot hoist and six-foot fly, with a two-foot start, the same proportions to be observed for flags of other sizes. The flag represents the copper star of Arizona rising from a blue field in the face of a setting sun."

- Chapter 7, Session Laws of Arizona, 1917. Laws that govern the Arizona State Flag: A.R.S. § 41-851 State Colors; State Flag and A.R.S. § 13-3703 Abuse of venerated objects; classification. The official state colors, blue and gold, were approved by the Legislature on March 9, 1915.

## State/U.S. Commemorative Flag Program

**ABOUT THE PROGRAM:** At the request of the public, flags are flown over the State Capitol Building in Phoenix, Arizona for observances such as state or federal service, retirements, or memorials. This program is provided in partnership with the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) and the Secretary of State's Office (SOS) who provides authentication certificates.

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** Requestors must provide their own flags. Contact ADOA, General Services Division (GSD), (602) 542-5405 for information on how to obtain an application. Participants may also bring a flag to GSD, 100 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85007 and fill out an application in person.

**CERTIFICATES:** Secretary Reagan authenticates that the flag was flown over the Capitol and issues a certificate. Once processed, flag and certificate are returned to the participant.



# THE ARIZONA STATE FLAG



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March 2015

This brochure explains the symbolism on the Arizona State flag and how to display it. My office also provides certificates under the State Commemorative Flag Program to those honored with a flag.



*Secretary of State  
MICHELE REAGAN*

# Displaying the State Flag of the Great State of Arizona

These rules are from: 10 June 1966 Arizona Executive Order signed by Gov. Samuel P. Goddard

Authoritative guidelines for display and handling of the Arizona State Flag are necessary in order that citizens and organizations do not inadvertently display the flag in a disrespectful manner and in order that uniformity may be achieved in displaying the flag.

All citizens of Arizona should be aware of the correct methods of displaying the Arizona State Flag and make every effort to see that proper respect and courtesy is shown whenever the flag is displayed.

Therefore, by the virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arizona by the Arizona Constitution and the Laws of Arizona, I order that the following customs and rules be observed in the State of Arizona when handling or displaying the Arizona State Flag:

**1. General.** The flag of the State of Arizona represents the living state and is considered a living thing. The right arm is the sword arm and therefore the point of danger; hence, the right is the position of honor. The edge of the flag which is toward the staff is the heraldic dexter or right edge. The Arizona State Flag, when in company with other flags of the same rank, is always given the position of honor, which is the marching right (the flag's own right, or the left of an observer facing it).

**2. Raising the flag.** The Arizona flag should be raised with utmost respect and where the occasion demands, with formality. The flag is attached to the halyard (a rope for raising the flag) and then it is hoisted briskly, being careful that the flag does not touch the ground.

**3. Lowering the flag.** The Arizona flag should be lowered slowly and with dignity. After removing the flag from the halyard, making sure it doesn't touch the ground, fold it in the same manner as the national flag. First fold in third, lengthwise, and then by a series of diagonal folds make it into a triangle.

**4. Cleaning the flag.** When the Arizona flag becomes soiled and dirty, it may be cleaned. However, when it becomes tattered and torn and no longer makes a respectable appearance, it should be destroyed by burning.

**5. Display of flag with national colors.** In all cases where the Arizona flag is displayed with the national colors the rules governing display of the national colors apply [sic apply] the national flag shall have the honor position and be displayed to the right of state flag (to the left as seen by an observer facing them).

**6. Display of flag at half staff.** When the national colors are displayed at half staff, the Arizona flag should be displayed in like manner. However, the Governor may decree that the Arizona flag be displayed at half staff on other occasions and the national colors would not be so displayed unless ordered by the President of the United States.

**7. Display of flag with two or more nations.** When the Arizona flag is displayed with flags of two or more nations, all flags should be on staffs of equal height and flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace. The Arizona flag should be placed immediately to the left (observer's right) of the foreign national flags and to the right (observer's left) of any other state flags. All other state flags shall be arranged in alphabetical order in the order of precedence of their entry into the nation.

**8. Display of flag on flag poles.** When flags are displayed on flag poles of equal size in front of a building or entrance to parks, fairgrounds or other area developments, the point of honor for the flags will be to the entrance or the building's right, the observer's left as he faces the front of the building or entrance.

**9. Display of flag in processions.** When the Arizona state flag is carried, as in a procession in Arizona with other flags, it will be to the left of all National flags, but to the right (the left of an observer facing the procession) of other state flags or flags of lower rank. When the Arizona flag is displayed with foreign flags and other state flags it will be of comparable size.

**10. Display of flag with other flags and pennants.** When a number of flags of states or cities or pennants of societies are grouped, as in a cluster, and displayed from staffs, the Arizona flag shall be displayed at the center or the highest point of the group.

**11. Display of flag from crossed staffs.** When the Arizona State Flag is displayed from crossed staffs with another state flag or flag of lesser rank, the Arizona flag will be to

the flag's right (the observer's left) and staff shall be in front of the staff of the other flag.

**12. Display of flag on same halyard with others.** When the Arizona flag is flown on the same halyard with flags of cities or counties, the Arizona flag should always be at the peak. When flown on adjacent staffs (poles) the Arizona flag should be hoisted first, after the national flag, and lowered after all others except the national flag.

**13. Display in auditorium.** When the Arizona flag is displayed alone or with other state flags or flags of lower rank in the chancel of a church or on a platform or stage, the state flag will be placed to the flag's right as it faces the audience. If displayed in the body of the auditorium it should be placed to the flag's right as it faces the front of room.

**14. Display of flag over a sidewalk.** When the Arizona flag is suspended over a sidewalk from a building, the flag should be hoisted out from the building with the rays (upper half of flag) first.

**15. Display of flag horizontally.** When the Arizona flag is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at any angle from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the flag shall be placed upon the staff as if it were in an upright position.

**16. Display of flag over the middle of the street.** When the Arizona flag is displayed over the middle of the street, the flag should be suspended vertically with the rays to the north on an east-west street or to the east on a north-south street.

**17. Other displays.** When the Arizona flag is displayed in any manner other than being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed horizontally against a wall, the upper half of the flag (rays) will be at the top and the flag's dexter (right edge) will be to its right (the observer's left). When displayed vertically the flag's dexter (right) will be up and the rays will be to the flag's right (the observer's left). When displayed in a window it should be displayed in the same way. The flag should never be displayed as festoons, rosettes or drapings; bunting should be used for this purpose.

Arizonans are encouraged to display the Arizona State Flag whenever feasible.